



Technical Assistance Opportunity for Rural Alaska Native Communities Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Program for Community Energy Planning and Projects – Round Three

About the Offices

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (Office of Indian Energy) is charged by Congress to direct, foster, coordinate, and implement energy planning and deployment, education, management, and programs that assist Tribes with energy development, capacity building, energy infrastructure, energy costs, and electrification of Indian lands and homes.

The DOE Office of Indian Energy works within DOE, across government agencies, and with Indian Tribes and organizations to promote Indian energy policies and initiatives. The DOE Office of Indian Energy performs these functions within the scope of DOE's mission and consistently with the federal government's trust responsibility, tribal self-determination policy, and government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes.

The DOE Office of Indian Energy collaborates with Tribes to bring about the next generation of energy development in Indian Country. We provide reliable and accurate information to empower tribal leaders to make informed energy decisions. Through energy project funding, quality training, and technical assistance, we promote community economic development and job creation, foster tribal energy self-sufficiency and self-determination, and advance tribal visions for a sustainable energy future.

The Denali Commission (Commission) is an independent federal agency, established in 1998, designed to provide critical utilities, infrastructure, and economic support throughout Alaska. With the creation of the Denali Commission, Congress acknowledged the need for increased inter-agency cooperation and focus on Alaska's remote communities. In the realm of community energy improvements the Denali Commission typically serves Tribes, municipalities, and energy cooperatives. The Commission's funding for the START initiative will extend the DOE Office of Indian Energy funding to provide technical assistance to rural Alaska communities including, but not limited to, tribal governments.

The DOE Office of Indian Energy established the Alaska Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Program in 2012 to provide technical assistance to Alaska Native communities in the development of community energy plans and renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

In May 2012, the DOE Office of Indian Energy and the Commission entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to develop, coordinate, and implement programs, including the Alaska START Program, to support renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in rural Alaska Native communities.



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The Alaska START initiative includes a competitive technical assistance opportunity aimed at achieving the following goals:

- Reducing the cost and use of energy for rural Alaska consumers and communities
- Increasing local capacity, energy efficiency, and conservation through training and public education
- Increasing renewable energy deployment and financing opportunities for communities and utilities.

The START initiative is a comprehensive effort examining all energy-related issues in selected rural Alaska Native communities, including diesel powerhouses, power distribution infrastructure, utility management, bulk fuel storage, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, sewer and water energy demands, housing, and other community issues. Technical assistance will include intensive data collection and analysis, an on-site workshop in the community that will address the above issues and provide technical support to selected projects, and ongoing work with the community to train local energy champions and energy specialists and implement energy- and cost-saving initiatives.

START Round Three in 2015 will support activities of Alaska Native communities and entities that are focused on community-based energy planning, energy awareness and training programs, and identification and implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities. To receive START technical assistance, the community will be expected to provide necessary energy and cost data and commit to hosting and participating in the program, including the on-site workshop, and ongoing pursuit of action items identified in any final reports and analysis.

Basic Eligibility

The START Program is largely supported by funds appropriated to the DOE Office of Indian Energy and Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy under Title V of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Title V directs and authorizes the Department to provide technical assistance services to “Indian Tribes,” which are defined in Section 2601 of the Act to mean “any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native community or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.” Only **Alaska Native village or village corporation** applicants meeting these criteria will be considered.

Selection Criteria

It is anticipated that up to five (5) Alaska Native communities will be selected from the applicant pool to receive START technical assistance.



The most likely successful applications will demonstrate:

- Magnitude of achievable energy or cost savings across the Alaska Native community at completion of technical assistance.
- Likelihood of implementation of roadmap activities developed through technical assistance. This will be evaluated by explanation within the application of previous efforts to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy, the existence of an energy goal, and the identification of an energy champion.
- Commitment from Alaska Native community leadership, as well as key community stakeholders, showing support for START technical assistance.
- Likelihood of implementation of a renewable energy or energy efficiency project(s). This will be evaluated through existing feasibility or resource assessment studies or identified project designs or descriptions.
- Involvement in DOE- or other agency-sponsored technical assistance, trainings, or workshops.
- Dedicated effort to addressing climate resiliency and/or adaptation planning.

Timeline for Selection and Technical Assistance

- **Application Deadline: February 6, 2015 (midnight Eastern Time)**
- Review Period: February – March 2015
- Date of Notification: March – April 2015
- Initial Conferences (via telephone and email): April – May 2015
- Period of Technical Assistance: April 2015 – April 2018

Submittal of this application indicates Alaska Native community interest in receiving technical assistance from the START Program. A DOE and Commission team will identify successful applicants by April 2015. By early May 2015, the successful applicants will begin to work with the START team to identify appropriate activities for technical assistance.

How to Apply

Applications are being accepted until February 6, 2015 (midnight Eastern Time). Complete the information below and submit your application using the “Submit this Application” button at the end of this form. The application must be completed in its entirety in order to be considered.

If you have trouble, you can submit the completed PDF form separately to STARTsupport@nrel.gov.

Contact Us

Questions can be submitted to STARTsupport@nrel.gov or IndianEnergy@hq.doe.gov.



APPLICATION FORM

Technical Assistance Opportunity for Rural Alaska Native Communities: Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Program for Community Energy Planning and Projects – Round Three

Alaska Native Village or Corporation Name: _____

Names of Representatives

Tribal Leader

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Position/Title: _____

Tribal Staff Contacts

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Position/Title: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Position/Title: _____

Village Corporation

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Position/Title: _____



To be considered for the technical assistance, you must answer all questions thoroughly in the space provided.

Part One: Community and Basic Energy Information

1. Population of community (per 2010 U.S. Census): _____
2. Name and ownership structure of electric utility serving your community (e.g., multi-village co-op, tribally owned, municipally owned, etc.): _____
3. Is your electric utility currently eligible to receive Power Cost Equalization (PCE)? Yes No
 - a. If so, is your electric utility currently receiving PCE? Yes No
 - b. List other community facilities that currently receive PCE: _____
4. Please list the most recent retail price for electricity (per kilowatt-hour) and fuel (per gallon):
Electricity: _____ Diesel Fuel: _____ Heating Fuel: _____ Gasoline: _____
5. Complete the [Historical Energy Usage Spreadsheet](#) that describes the energy used by existing community and residential facilities. Submit the spreadsheet along with your application via email or by mail to: NREL, 15013 Denver West Parkway, RSF/B408-5, Golden, CO 80401.

Part Two: Alaska Native Community Energy Planning and Infrastructure

1. Are tribal and community leadership and other key stakeholders committed to supporting the START Program partnership?
 - a. Describe the level of support START activities as a whole would receive from local involvement.

 - b. List the name(s) of current community energy champions or committees (if any).

 - c. If available, provide letters of support from various stakeholders, such as the community's electric utility, the municipal government, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act village or regional corporation, and other stakeholders. Submit the letters along with your application via email or by mail to: NREL, 15013 Denver West Parkway, RSF/B408-5, Golden, CO 80401.

List the names of the supporting entities. _____



2. Has the community established an energy vision and/or plan*?

- **Yes.** Describe the energy vision and/or plan, including any specific goals, strategies, and/or projects listed in the vision or plan. If documented in writing, include the vision/plan with your application via email or by mail to: NREL, 15013 Denver West Parkway, RSF/B408-5, Golden, CO 80401.

- **No.**
What energy elements would the community like to address? _____
What partners might be involved? _____
Provide a proposed timeline for completing an energy plan. _____

**An energy vision/plan or energy goal(s) may include: a target percentage of energy savings, a target percentage of renewable energy generation, a specific timeframe to reach a goal, or a broad statement on the value of energy to the community.*

3. Has the community implemented or identified potential opportunities for renewable energy and/or energy efficiency projects? If so, please describe the project(s). Include relevant information such as: the type of renewable energy or efficiency technology, potential generation capacity or savings, and other details relevant to potential project development and financing. Provide a copy of any feasibility or resource assessment studies, project plans or designs, or other project documentation with your application via email or by mail to: NREL, 15013 Denver West Parkway, RSF/B408-5 Golden, CO 80401.

4. What is/are the most immediate challenge(s) facing the community regarding energy planning, energy education, or project implementation efforts?

5. Identify the current state of community demand for electricity and heating fuel:

- Growing
- Shrinking
- Stable

6. Describe the current state of bulk fuel storage and retail dispensing in the community.

- a. Is there adequate bulk fuel storage capacity in the community?

- b. Who owns/manages fuel distribution in your community?

- c. How is fuel delivered to the community (barge, air)?



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- d. What company typically delivers fuel to your community?
- _____
- e. Are there issues when fuel is delivered by barge (i.e., shoaling in the river, difficult and long portable transfer pipe connections to the marine header system to the bulk fuel tanks)?
- _____
7. Describe existing energy infrastructure, including age of diesel power systems, renewable energy sources, heating technologies (for homes and buildings).
- _____
8. Briefly describe your existing water and wastewater infrastructure (e.g., circulating water system, conventional piped sewer and water, flush-haul system, washeteria and honeybuckets, etc.). Do you have a water/wastewater management plan? Who owns and operates the existing system? Is the community a part of a multi-community or agency management effort, such as Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative?
- _____
9. Briefly describe your existing telephone, cable, and Internet infrastructure (i.e., who owns the infrastructure, who bills, etc.).
- _____
10. Briefly describe the status of your landfill and solid waste management efforts (e.g., lined and new construction, unlined and overflowing, recycling and backhaul program, etc.).
- _____
11. List any current and near-future community improvement projects such as bulk fuel or powerhouse upgrades, renewable energy projects, weatherization projects, housing, clinic, school, road, water and wastewater infrastructure, and/or airport construction. In particular, provide information on any energy or weatherization improvement projects, energy studies, or audits (attach as necessary) in the past five years.
- _____
12. List any existing regional and/or multi-community partnerships related to energy, housing, and/or environmental education.
- _____
13. Describe any current or proposed efforts to engage community youth in energy conversations.
- _____



14. Identify recent or current workforce development activities community members have completed, are interested in, or are needed in the community.

15. Communities selected for the START Program will be provided with the following types of assistance. For each, please describe what specific technical assistance activities would be most useful for the community's efforts to identify and implement renewable energy generation or energy efficiency projects.

a. Strategic Energy Planning and Project Prioritization _____

b. Community Energy Education and Staff Training _____

c. Near-Term Energy Efficiency Improvements for Existing Community Infrastructure/Facilities

d. Developing Grant Applications to Fund Energy Projects _____

SUBMIT

Click the button above to submit or email application materials to: STARTsupport@nrel.gov

Contact Us: IndianEnergy@hq.doe.gov or www.energy.gov/indianenergy